

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A beverage container closure comprising a gas impermeable sealant layer molded from a melt-processible composition comprising:

- (a) a thermoplastic base polymeric material polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene and a copolymer comprising propylene and ethylene monomeric units; and
- (b) layered magnesium aluminum silicate montmorillonite clay having platelets with a diameter of approximately 1 micron,
whereby said layered montmorillonite clay renders said sealant layer substantially gas impermeable.

Claims 2-5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A beverage container closure comprising a gas impermeable sealant layer molded from a melt-processible composition comprising:

- (a) a thermoplastic base polymeric material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyethylene, styrene ethylene butadiene styrene polymer, styrene butadiene styrene polymer, ethylene propylene diene monomer, and metallocene polymers; and
- (b) layered magnesium aluminum silicate montmorillonite clay having platelets with a diameter of approximately 1 micron,

whereby said layered montmorillonite clay renders said sealant layer substantially gas impermeable.

Claim 7-9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of decreasing the gas permeability of a beverage container closure comprising a gas impermeable sealant layer comprising a thermoplastic material polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene and a copolymer comprising propylene and ethylene monomeric units, said method comprising introducing layered ~~magnesium aluminum silicate~~ montmorillonite clay to said material, whereby said layered montmorillonite clay renders said sealant layer substantially gas impermeable.

Claim 11-13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of decreasing the gas permeability of a beverage container closure comprising a gas impermeable sealant layer comprising a thermoplastic base polymeric material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyethylene, styrene ethylene butadiene styrene polymer, styrene butadiene styrene polymer, ethylene propylene diene monomer, and metallocene polymers, said method comprising introducing layered ~~magnesium aluminum silicate~~ montmorillonite clay to said material, whereby said layered montmorillonite clay renders said sealant layer substantially gas impermeable.

Claim 15 (cancelled).